

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in the application before this Amendment. Claims 1 and 3-6 stand rejected. Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Drawings

Applicant submits herewith revised drawings as proposed in the Drawing Change Authorization Request, which was previously submitted with Applicant's Amendment of October 7, 2002 and now approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended and rewritten claim 2 in independent form to substantially include all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 2 as rewritten is allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,940,456) in view of Sugawara (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,112). Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and amended claims 3 and 6 to depend from allowable claim 2. Therefore, Applicant submits that this rejection has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,112) in view of Chen et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sugawara teaches a path switching ring control apparatus for use in a synchronous (SDH) network, and in particular for the purpose of repairing a fault which occurs in an asynchronous (PDH) subnetwork contained therein. The apparatus includes a receiving-side function section which demaps an SDH signal from a path switching section to a PDH signal and outputs the PDH signal. A transmitting-side function section maps an input PDH signal to an SDH signal and applies the SDH signal to an SDH interface section as a transmission signal. The transmitting-side function section includes a transmission alarm detection section that generates a transmission alarm when it detects degradation of the quality of the PDH signal. The path switching ring control apparatus further may be configured having add-drop multiplexing.

Chen et al. teaches a plesiochronous digital hierarchy (PDH) system that allows for multiple bundles of PDH payload data streams to be synchronously transmitted from one point to another. The system includes a plurality of PDH multiplexers in a first stage that provide multiplexing to accommodate phase variations in tributary inputs. A synchronous clock is provided that synchronizes the PDH multiplexers. Thereafter, all tributaries at higher level multiplexing are synchronized using a synchronous multiplexer.

Further, Chen et al. generally discloses that the transmission of PDH digital data streams over fiber optical link requires the recovery of a jitter free clock with respect to the PDH data stream at the receiving end. A divide-by-K circuit is provided as part of a clock generation and recovery circuit to recover a jitter free clock.

There is no teaching or suggestion within the Sugawara and Chen et al. patent documents that approach the limitations of independent claim 4. In particular, the combination fails to teach or suggest at least "a desynchronizer *following* the transmission processing means for recovery of the plesiochronous signal clocks of the plesiochronous signals" as recited in claim 4. Neither Sugawara nor Chen et al. teach or suggest a desynchronizer following a transmission processing means. More particularly, Chen et al. merely teaches a synchronous PDH system providing all stages of PDH multiplexing in a single device such that all tributaries can share the same clock source in the system.

Thereafter, once the tributaries are synchronously multiplexed, they can be transmitted to remote locations.

Further, and as shown in Fig. 5 of Chen et al., the transmitter 314 follows the clock generation and recovery circuit, as well as the multiplexers for synchronizing/desynchronizing the signals. Applicant submits that changing the location of the desynchronizer is not a trivial modification and there is no teaching or suggestion in Chen et al. to make such a modification.

Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the references. Specifically, Sugawara fails to teach or suggest the need for recovering plesiochronous signal clocks. There is no need in the apparatus of Sugawara to recover plesiochronous signal clocks nor does Sugawara teach or suggest any timing requirements for the signals to use in recovering the plesiochronous signal clocks. Sugawara merely discloses a receiving-side function section and a transmitting-side function section, with the transmitting-side function section having a transmission alarm detection section for generating a transmission alarm signal when detecting a degradation of the quality of the PDH signal. Sugawara is not concerned with the recovery of plesiochronous signal clocks. Sugawara is concerned with the election of a path at the SDH network side to repair a fault and prevent an interruption of service, not to transmitting plesiochronous signals to a plurality of output channels, thereby needing recovery of plesiochronous signal clocks.

Further, claim 5 depends from allowable independent claim 4 and is allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 4 is allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

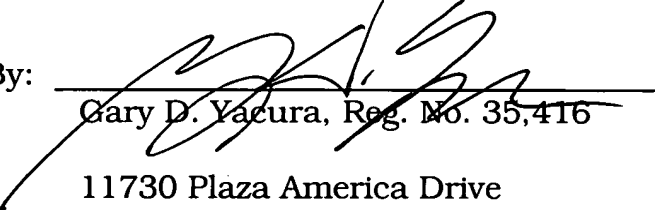
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, and all of the stated grounds of rejection having been properly traversed, accommodated, and/or rendered moot, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 2-6 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the application before allowance thereof, the Examiner is invited to contact Gary D. Yacura (Reg. No. 35,416) at (703) 668-8023.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary D. Vacura, Reg. No. 35,416

11730 Plaza America Drive
Suite 600
Reston, Virginia 20190
(703) 668-8000

GDY/ERS/lbe